

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 1, as follows:

Specifically, a direct current (DC) component of the local frequency signal output from the local oscillator 20 is cut by a DC cut capacitor 22, which is in parallel with resistor R1, and the local frequency signal deprived of the DC component is amplified by a parallel circuit comprised of an inverter 23 and a resistor 24. A programmable frequency divider 25 divides the amplified local frequency signal by a predetermined division ratio to generate a divided local frequency signal. The predetermined division ratio is calculated by dividing the sum of the desired frequency and the intermediate frequency by the reference frequency. A phase comparator 26 compares the phase and frequency of the divided local frequency signal with the phase and frequency of the reference frequency signal output from a reference oscillator 27.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 15, as follows:

The phase comparator 26 generates an average DC voltage signal which is proportional to the phase difference and the frequency difference. A low-pass filter 28 removes an alternating current (AC) component of the average DC voltage signal to generate a filtered average DC voltage signal. The filtered average DC voltage signal is applied to the cathode of the varactor diode 21 via resistor R2.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 28, as follows:

When the flash memory 200 requires the boosted voltage from the booster circuit 30 in the write mode or the erase mode, the protection switch 210 supplies the voltage converter circuit 130 with the boosted voltage by conducting between the voltage converter circuit 130 and the booster circuit 30. The protection switch 210 is controlled by a control unit ~~220~~ 120, such that a boosted voltage input terminal of the voltage converter circuit 130 is selectively coupled to the booster circuit 30 or the ground.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 16, line 9, as follows:

Specifically, the protection switch 210 connects the output terminal of the booster circuit 30 to the input terminal of the voltage converter circuit 130 when the protection switch 210 receives a signal having a logical "H" level from the control unit ~~220~~ 120. The protection switch 210 electrically disconnects the output terminal of the booster circuit 30 from the input terminal of the voltage converter circuit 130 to ground the input terminal of the voltage converter circuit 130 when the protection switch 210 receives a signal having a logical "L" level from the control unit ~~220~~ 120. The protection switch 210 includes a p-channel transistor T1, an n-channel transistor T2, a p-channel transistors T3, an n-channel transistor T4, and an inverter 211.